

RECOGNIZING ANTONIO M. "TONY" PÉREZ 2011 FRANK P. ZEIDLER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD HONOREE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Antonio M. "Tony" Pérez, recipient of the 2011 Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award. Mr. Pérez is a long-time social justice advocate, mentor, community leader and consummate professional. He currently serves as secretary-executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM). The Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award acknowledges residents whose efforts most embody the social justice and public service values and vision of former Mayor Zeidler, who died in 2006 at the age of 93.

Mr. Pérez' body of work has been exemplary. He founded the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC), a non-profit vocational training organization that continues to provide employment and education to young adults in Milwaukee. It was modeled after the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Mr. Pérez developed a holistic program that integrates education and life skills with on-the-job work experience for low-income 18–23-year-olds. During his tenure at MCSC from 1991 to 2000, more than 900 participants found jobs and received more than \$4.5 million in income. MCSC serves an average of 100 young participants per year and has served approximately 2,000 young adults since its inception.

In 1996, Mr. Pérez was one of six inspirational youth role models and mentors profiled on PBS', "The Merrow Report: Searching for Heroes". Mr. Pérez serves on a number of prestigious committees and has received numerous awards including member of the Executive Committee of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, past president of the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, and has served as a consultant to the Peace Corps. In 2006, HACM received the prestigious World Leadership Award in London, England for developing solutions to housing that are innovative to city leaders around the world. Also, in 2007 Mr. Pérez was recognized by the National Child Labor Committee with the Lewis Hine Award.

At HACM, Mr. Pérez oversees an internationally-recognized agency that provides affordable housing options for over 12,000 low-income families, elderly and disabled persons in the City of Milwaukee. During his tenure, the agency received or leveraged more than \$265 million in development resources. Accomplishments while at HACM include the construction of the \$28 million Milwaukee Job Corps Center in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor. The facility opened in the fall 2010 and has resulted in the creation of over 125 administrative, teaching, health care and service jobs. Additionally, during his tenure the City of Milwaukee obtained a five-year, \$24 million federal Enterprise Zone grant that helped thousands of youth gain training and employment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud Antonio M. "Tony" Pérez hails from the 4th Congressional District and that I can call him friend. I am honored to give praise to his many accomplishments and

life time commitment to youth and the entire Milwaukee Community. I wish him many more years of success.

HONORING AUSTIN SALMON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Salmon. Austin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austin became a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, as well as maintaining a position on the Honor Roll of Liberty North High School in Liberty, Missouri. Austin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austin built shelving and renovated the basement of Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran Church in Raytown, Missouri, a small church long in need of the renovation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin Salmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PHARMACEUTICAL STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2011

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act of 2011.

Across the country, unused and expired pharmaceuticals are polluting our water ways, poisoning our children, and putting our public safety at risk. Americans should have a convenient and safe option when they want to rid their cabinets of unused drugs. The pharmaceutical stewardship bill I introduced today would ensure that these drugs are kept out of drinking water and out of the hands of both criminals and unsuspecting children.

The need for a safe drug disposal program has never been greater. In a 2008 investigation, pharmaceutical contamination was found in 24 out of 28 metropolitan areas' drinking water. Over 50 pharmaceuticals or byproducts were found in the Philadelphia source watershed alone.

Unlike the citizens of approximately a dozen other countries, Americans do not have a convenient and consistent place to bring their medications. Without a drug take back program, pharmaceuticals are frequently diverted to purposes for which they were not intended.

The results can be deadly. Unguarded, unused pharmaceuticals can cause accidental

poisonings, be misused, or diverted for criminal purposes.

Every fifteen minutes, a child under four will overdose on drugs found at home. In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that unintentional prescription opioid overdoses now kill more Americans than cocaine and heroin combined. In Florida, the death rate for prescription drugs increased 84 percent.

Without safe disposal options, our most vulnerable and unsuspecting citizens are in the bull's eye of a proliferating pharmaceutical black market. The elderly are at risk of violent home break-ins, scams, and death as prescription drug addicts seek to steal their medications.

Drug thieves also target 'open house' events and ask to use the bathroom in order to have access to the medicine cabinet. The problem is so rampant that realtors in Ohio are given medication lockboxes to store medications during open houses and the National Association of Realtors recommends hiding all prescription medications during open houses.

Americans who want to reduce the threat to their health and safety posed by leftover prescription medications have few options.

Federal agencies from the Office of National Drug Control Policy to the Drug Enforcement Agency are encouraging Americans to use secure medicine take-back programs to return drugs for environmentally sound disposal. But these programs are too few and far between, and communities are struggling to provide them. Because secure take-back programs are not widely available, the FDA currently recommends that the most toxic and addictive substances be flushed down the toilet and into the wastewater system. When take-back programs are not available, federal agencies are forced to advise that all other unwanted pills should be mixed with undesirable substances in an attempt to prevent theft and then thrown in the trash for delivery to the landfill.

The current disposal methods are inadequate and even dangerous. A mother with Crohn's disease was prescribed an opioid patch 100 times stronger than morphine but she was afraid her plumbing could not handle the used patch so she threw it away. Her 4-year old died after finding and applying the patch from the trash.

Furthermore, pharmaceuticals disposed in the trash or down the drain reach our nation's waterways and our drinking water.

In 2002, the United States Geological Survey found that 80 percent of streams and 93 percent of groundwater was contaminated with at least one pharmaceutical. In 2008, an investigation found that at least 46 million Americans are exposed to prescription drugs through their drinking water. Others are exposed when food crops are fertilized with polluted biosolids and absorb pharmaceuticals through the roots to the plant itself. Perhaps even more frightening is that the current extent of pharmaceutical pollution is unknown and understudied.

Aquatic organisms and indeed whole ecosystems can never escape this witches brew of pharmaceuticals. The USGS recently reported the widespread sexual disruption in fish across the United States. Of the many compounds in the pharmaceutical slurry that